



U.S. Department of Justice

Immigration and Naturalization Service

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OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS
425 Eye Street N.W.
ULLB, 3rd Floor
Washington, D.C. 20536



File: [REDACTED]

Office: Nebraska Service Center Date:

FEB 6 2001

IN RE: Applicant: [REDACTED]

Application: Application for Travel Document Pursuant to Section 223 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. 1203

PUBLIC COPY

IN BEHALF OF APPLICANT: Self-represented

Identification data deleted to
prevent clearly unwarranted
invasion of personal privacy

INSTRUCTIONS:

This is the decision in your case. All documents have been returned to the office which originally decided your case. Any further inquiry must be made to that office.

If you believe the law was inappropriately applied or the analysis used in reaching the decision was inconsistent with the information provided or with precedent decisions, you may file a motion to reconsider. Such a motion must state the reasons for reconsideration and be supported by any pertinent precedent decisions. Any motion to reconsider must be filed within 30 days of the decision that the motion seeks to reconsider, as required under 8 C.F.R. 103.5(a)(1)(i).

If you have new or additional information which you wish to have considered, you may file a motion to reopen. Such a motion must state the new facts to be proved at the reopened proceeding and be supported by affidavits or other documentary evidence. Any motion to reopen must be filed within 30 days of the decision that the motion seeks to reopen, except that failure to file before this period expires may be excused in the discretion of the Service where it is demonstrated that the delay was reasonable and beyond the control of the applicant or petitioner. Id.

Any motion must be filed with the office which originally decided your case along with a fee of \$110 as required under 8 C.F.R. 103.7.

FOR THE ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER,
EXAMINATIONS

Robert P. Wiemann, Acting Director
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The application for a travel document was denied by the Director, Nebraska Service Center, and is now before the Associate Commissioner for Examinations on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The applicant seeks to obtain a reentry permit under section 223 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. 1203. The director denied the application after determining that the application for travel document was filed after the applicant had departed the United States. This application was filed with the Service on April 3, 2000.

On appeal, the applicant states that when she and her family left the United States in May 1999, her permit to reenter the United States had almost one year of validity left. She explains that neither she nor her husband knew that the regulations require that an Application for Travel Document must be filed in the United States. She explains that when they realized that her reentry permit had expired, they met with the United States Consulate who advised them to apply for a renewal as soon as possible.

The regulation at 8 C.F.R. 223.2(b)(1) states that an application for a reentry permit "may be approved if filed by a person who is in the United States at the time of application."

The Service regulation at 8 C.F.R. 103.2(a)(7)(i) states, in pertinent part:

An application or petition received in a Service office shall be stamped to show the time and date of actual receipt and...shall be regarded as properly filed when so stamped, if it is properly signed and executed and the required filing fee is attached or a waiver of the filing fee is granted.

According to this regulation, an application is properly filed not when it is mailed, but when it is received at a Service office. Therefore, by regulation, the applicant must be in the United States when the Service receives the application.

The applicant has confirmed that she departed the United States on May 10, 1999. This application was not filed with the Service until April 3, 2000. Therefore, the application cannot be approved.

The burden of proof in these proceedings rests solely with the applicant. Section 291 of the Act, 8 U.S.C. 1361. The applicant has not met that burden.

ORDER: The appeal is dismissed.